



Mishawaka Communicator



Working together to build the "Best Hometown in America" by delivering exceptional services, promoting safe and clean neighborhoods, elevating the quality of life, and inspiring pride in our community.

Dave Wood, Mayor

www.mishawaka.in.gov

November 2013

A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood



The 2014 Civil City Budget has just been adopted for the City of Mishawaka. This year brought some new budget challenges but overall, I think there is a lot to be proud of. Mishawaka continues to operate in a fiscally conservative manner. Indeed, prudent and efficient budgets have been a key to our long-term success. I am proud to say that our budget remains balanced, realistic, conservative and sustainable.

The Mishawaka Civil City Budget is where priorities and planning meet reality. In 2014, our priorities continue to be providing world-class service to our citizens, enhancing the quality of life in the Princess City, improving the service capabilities of our facilities, increasing efficiency in our departments, promoting economic development/workforce development, investing in our infrastructure, providing economical health insurance to our staff of public servants, and debt reduction toward the goal of becoming debt-free by 2015.

Budgeting, especially at the municipal government level, is more of an art than a science. We do our best to create accurate budgets while taking into account our best estimates on revenues, expenses, trending and economic forecasting. Yet there are so many factors beyond our control that make budgeting challenging at best. Fluctuations in tax collections, changing State and Federal regulations and bureaucracy, lawsuits, and out of control health care costs are just a few of the variables that can wreak havoc on our forecasting.

I would like to thank our new Controller, Becky Miller and her staff for all of their hard work and diligence in pulling all of the pieces of this budget together, as well as my administrative management team for their preparation of the departmental budgets and for their understanding of the long-term needs of their department and the City. I would also like to thank our Common Council members for their cooperation and the many hours that they spent in reviewing every line in the budget. The budget was adopted unanimously on October 22. I continue to believe that the Federal Government and state and local governments everywhere can learn from the way Mishawaka conducts its business.

For more information about the City of Mishawaka 2014 Civil City Budget, visit www.mishawaka.in.gov.

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UPCOMING EVENTS!

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| Dec 6 | Santa's Arrival and Tree Lighting (Downtown) |
| Dec 7 | "Winterfest" (Merrifield Park) |
| Dec 15 | Michiana Concert Band Winter Concert (Battell Center) |

City Offices Closed

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| Nov 11 | Veteran's Day |
| Nov 28-29 | Thanksgiving Holiday |
| Dec 24-25 | Christmas Holiday |



Community Education Sessions

Health Information from Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center

SJRMHC will be hosting several community education sessions regarding the Affordable Care Act and what it means to you. The **Affordable Care Act & Health Insurance Marketplace Basics: Community Education Sessions** are free however seating is limited. If you are interested in attending please call 855.88.SJMED (855.887.5633) to register.

November 20, 2013

6 – 7 pm
Civil Rights Heritage Center at the Natatorium
1040 W. Washington St., South Bend

December 11, 2013

6 – 7 pm
Civil Rights Heritage Center at the Natatorium
1040 W. Washington St., South Bend

January 8, 2014

6 – 7 pm
Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center
Education Center (lower level)
5215 Holy Cross Pkwy., Mishawaka

January 21, 2014

4:30 – 5:30 pm
Sanctuary at St. Paul's
3602 S. Ironwood Dr., South Bend

Did you know...

- In the late 1800's, the City of Mishawaka gained the title as the "Peppermint Capital of the World" due to the rich black loam found in the area that yield great quantities of mint.
- In September of 1872, a fire destroyed three quarters of Mishawaka's business district.
- Princess Mishawaka was the daughter of Shawnee Chief Elkhart.

A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood (continued)

Construction Update

Construction year 2013 has been an especially busy season. Like me, I am sure that you are growing weary of all of the construction projects around the City. Though it is hard to imagine now, most of the construction will be wrapped up before winter arrives and normal traffic patterns will be restored. Please be patient with crews and remember...the road to improvement is always under construction! Here is an update of some of our major projects:

Church – Union Improvement Project Phase I

This project reconstructing Church Street from Lincolnway East south to Seventh Street has turned out to be one of the most challenging of the multi-phase Main St. corridor improvement project. In addition to widening Church Street to include a center left turn lane, repairing the failed under-drain system that caused the “weeping underpass” and upgrading the traffic signal system, the City is installing a major element of the US Environmental Protection Agency mandated Long Term Control Program (LTCP) which includes the installation of approximately 600 feet of 78” diameter interceptor sewer by boring under Church Street.

The project was proceeding smoothly until crews discovered contaminated soil from a leaky fuel tank at Fourth and Main Streets. That discovery brought the project to a halt until a plan could be devised and approved to remediate the pollution. By the time you are reading this, final paving of Third and Fourth Streets East of Church and the northbound lanes on Church should be complete. Due to the amount of work remaining to complete the southbound Church lanes and the uncertainty of weather, it may not be possible to complete all of the southbound phase before the end of the 2013 construction season. We are working with the contractor to complete major components of the southbound phase prior to December 1.

Based on the fact that the City cannot have the corridor operating with only one lane of traffic in each direction through the winter, the existing southbound concrete pavement on Church between Third and Fourth Streets will remain in place until next spring. Temporary asphalt between the new northbound pavement and existing southbound pavement will be installed to allow for two (2) lanes of traffic in each direction throughout winter and the center left turn lane at the Lincolnway intersection to be operational. Due to the discovery of contamination at Fourth and Main Streets, the installation of the interceptor sewer has been delayed until early spring 2014 at which time the Church St. concrete pavement between Third and Fourth Streets will be replaced.

Phase Two of this project will include improvement of Union Street between Seventh and Ninth Streets, a right turn lane for northbound traffic at Fourth, turn lanes for both northbound and southbound traffic at Eighth Street and landscaping improvements on the underpass. The City will begin this process early in 2014.

Bremen Highway Improvement Project

This project includes installation of storm sewer, curbs, landscaped islands, signal upgrades and street lighting plus the widening of Bremen Highway to two lanes in each direction with a center turn lane from Walter Street on the north to the entrance to the US 20 Bypass on the south. This project should be completed by the end of November, 2013.

Fir – Capital connector Project

Work on this project has progressed rapidly since there are very few conflicts with existing traffic or utilities. By the end of this November all trunk sanitary sewer, storm sewer and water main will be installed for the length of the project. Both of the eastbound lanes including curbing will be installed from Fir to Capital Avenue and construction will be completed on approximately half of the westbound lanes. Work will be completed in the Spring of 2014.



Government in Action - Fire Safety

With October having officially been designated as “Fire Safety Month”, a variety of activities were planned in the schools to help teach kids about fire safety and prevention. Some of those activities included bus evacuation drills, unannounced fire drills, safety poster contests, online fire internet safety games, and the Fire Safety Obstacle Course.

The Fire Safety Obstacle Course is hosted each year by Steve Govorko, a physical education teacher at Walt Disney School, and Mishawaka Chief of Fire Prevention, Jim Schuster. The course is part of a program developed by Mr. Govorko and Chief Schuster to generate awareness and present fire safety knowledge at the elementary school level. The course involves twelve different obstacles students may encounter in a fire situation and they must learn to maneuver around or through them. It also provides opportunities for students to learn to use personal senses, physical skills and judgment should they encounter a fire either at school or home. A variety of fire safety initiatives are included throughout the course as well. Exit paths, climbing, door and window safety, crawling, stop drop and roll, conditions and hazards are all incorporated to provide a hands-on training that will have a lifelong impact on students.

Each year fire safety is improving in homes, businesses and schools. The goal is to create awareness related to fire safety and reduce accidents by creating student and family awareness. As always, the Mishawaka Fire Department has the year round Smoke Detector Program designed for Mishawaka residents who may otherwise not be able to afford them. For additional information about this program, you can contact the Mishawaka Fire Department at 574-257-0620.

